



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George Harry HOFFMAN et al.
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR LANDED COST
REPORTING IN A SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK
Appl. No.: 09/816,491
Filing Date: 03/23/2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2161

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT AND DISCLOSURE

RSI prior to the claimed invention negotiated and manually administered master supplier contracts and master distributor contracts that assigned various supplier-distributor and distributor-store relationships, and which established a contract price for an item and an invoice price for the item that is different from the contract price and which may require a supplier to take an advance position in a raw material. Such master contract data was not accessible via a network for use in an automated process. RSI also manually used electronically-calculated least cost algorithms wherein selected parameters were forced manually for selecting suppliers and routes, but the least cost algorithm calculation and forcing was not fully integrated into a system accessible via a network and there was no automated interrelated process that was reviewable on the network on demand by registered independent supply chain users. Previous applications from this assignee which include one or more of the features in these claims are 09/815606, 09/816560, 09/816268, 09/816507, 09/816896, 09/815668, 09/816421, 09/815489, 09/816420, 09/816048 among others. It is possible that the foregoing disclosure may be pertinent to any claims in the assignee applications that claimed a manual master contract negotiation step as one of the elements of the combination claim.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

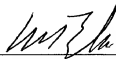
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

12/23/04

By



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: December 23, 2004

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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/816,491
Filing Date	March 23, 2001
First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
Group Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	062834-0117

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
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Sheet	2	of	3		

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
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Sheet 3 of 3

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		Common Identification Standards; GCI; Global Scorecard.net-Guide to ECT concepts.	

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